



Coordinated by *Comunidades Unidas* www.cutah.org (801) 487-4145 & funded by the Utah Department of Health, Center for Multicultural Health

Steering Committee

DATE: Thursday, March 27, 2008

TIME: 5:00pm-7:00pm

LOCATION: Utah Department of Health, room 114

Facilitators: Isabel Rojas, Sabrina Morales

MHN Coordinator: Isabel Rojas

Coordinating Agency: Comunidades Unidas, *Sabrina Morales*

Sub Contractors: Utah Health Policy Project, *Judi Hilman*

Center for Multicultural Health: Owen Quiñonez, Dulce Diez

Leadership Team:

CLAS Committee

Manuel Romero, Department of Workforce Services

Sabrina Morales, Comunidades Unidas

DATA Committee

Kevin McCulley, Association for Utah Community Health

Excused

POLICY Committee

Luz Robles, Zions Bank

Excused

Jesse Soriano, State Office of Ethnic Affairs

Members:

Committee Co-Chairs

Joanne R. Milner, *Horizonte, Community Relations*

EXCUSED

David Balkcom, *Primary Children's Medical Center, Language Program Coordinator*

Cam Torres, *Huntsman Cancer Institute, Hispanic Program*

Sally Valdez, *Hispanic Health Care Task Force*

Robert Kagabo, *Ethnic Health Advisory Council*

Valerie Suarez, *Harambee African American Tobacco & Health Network* **EXCUSED**

Jessica Kuo, *U of U School of Medicine, Administrative Manager*

Kyum Chon, *U of U, Health Promotion and Education*

Vai Laumatia, *Hispice Alliance, Chaplain/Community Outreach Resource*

Fahina Pasi, *National Tongan Society, Executive Director*

EXCUSED

Lynette Willie, *Utah Division of Substance Abuse & Mental Health, Public Information Officer*

Jill Jim, *Indian Walk-in Center*

Hajie M. Goll, *United Africans of Utah*

Lasuba Paul, *United Africans of Utah* **EXCUSED**

Attendance

David Balkcom

Hajie M. Goll

Jessica Kou

Kyum Chon

Lynette Willie

Manuel Romero

Vai Laumatia

1. **Welcome**

Isabel welcomed members and asked them to review the MHN roster and update any pertinent information. We want to thank the Center for Multicultural Health for providing the copies, food, and location for our Steering meetings. By way of reminder, please RSVP for these meetings so we get a good count for the food and not have leftovers.

2. **Committee Report**

Work group committees were asked to provide a brief update on their committees and to come prepared to discuss areas in which the Steering committee can help them further their work, refine their goals, and or increase attendance.

Policy: Legislative Update, Jesse & Judi

This last legislative session has been the most successful for the MHN in our efforts to bridge across the public/private sectors.

HB131: Mini-grants bill:

This bill was funded for \$173,000 awarded to 6 community based organizations ranging from \$30,000 to \$50,000 which will be partially federally matched. The bill will require CBO's to identify and enroll people who are medically underserved in public programs as well as to help them understand these programs and use health care effectively.

- There will be a planning meeting at the Health Department in April to discuss the best way to get people covered through the mini-grants.
- We hope to set up technical assistance workshops to help CBO's apply.
- Have a joint CLAS & Policy meeting with Jennifer Nagandu to help us figure out how to teach communities to navigate the health system.

Jennifer Nagandu, National Council of La Raza, was a big help for us in getting the bill going and is interested in coming out and helping through the planning process. Rep. Jen Seelig did an amazing job and worked very hard on this bill for MHN. Please email her and thank her for her work jseelig@utah.gov.

Health System Reforms:

There is a taskforce starting this up in Utah and all MHN members are invited to get involved to ensure a strong voice for health disparities. There will be a town hall meeting at the city library April 30th about the health systems reform.

Steering committee members were invited to attend Policy meetings and to watch for opportunities, through emails, to get involved in the broader statewide reform.

Steering Suggestions:

- Provide conference call for workgroup committee meetings
- Provide legislative advocacy training for next years session
- Consider holding Policy committee meetings in the evenings
- Post minute on CMH website
- Start including a little blurb or action items from each committee meeting

CLAS (Cultural & Linguistically Appropriate Services): Manuel & Sabrina

The work of this committee is focused on the National Office of Minority Health CLAS standards which focus on three areas: interpretation and availability of interpreting services in medical and social service settings; translation of main documents such as discharge documents, HIPAA regulations, etc.; and cultural competency and sensitivity of providers and staff.

This committee has some very exciting goals and activities planned, some of which include mini CLAS trainings to help organizations better implement CLAS standards. So far, they have two trainings scheduled in April.

- Our future goals include to promote ongoing free trainings for interpreters through the Department of Health, DWS, and/or other public services

To promote CLAS trainings to facilities serving non-english speaking Limited English Proficient individuals.

HB428, Statewide Standards for Health Care Interpreting

This bill was intended to evaluate the services that Medicaid provides to non English speakers. The bill did not pass but was recommended for study, as was the mini-grants bill last year. We are very hopeful for this bill next year.

The committee has been struggling with consistent attendance from the members which has made it difficult to move forward with some of their goals. Co-chairs are calling members to assess their level of commitment as well as identifying new members who have a real interest in the goals of this committee.

Steering Suggestions:

- Educate the community on the CLAS standards on their rights as users of the service
- Provide train the trainer for ethnic communities to learn their rights in their own language
 - Co-chairs are requesting support from community members from the different ethnic groups.
- Members suggested summarizing committee work after meetings to help them recruit from their communities.
- Vai would like the committee to do a presentation with his community
- Create a factsheet with community rights to distribute

Data: Isabel

The data committee is looking for guidance from the Steering committee to ensure that their work will improve data collection for ethnic minorities. It is important to note that the Data committee *does not* collect data, in fact the purpose of the committee is to evaluate the current collection of race and ethnicity data and identify best practices nationally and locally to ensure that the data reflects the communities needs.

The committee had been working on an annotative bibliography that would house health disparities data pertinent to our state; however, there were concerns with the MHN being able to maintain such a data base as well as a lack of resources for a project like this. At the last committee meeting the Data committee received some great feedback from some of the tobacco networks, who identified possible focus areas for this committee that would be useful for their communities as well (see MHN Data Committee doc.)

Steering Suggestions:

- Find out how to standardizing data collection and how to enforcing it.
 - In UDOH and all health care facilities in Utah
 - Assign an MHN member to attend UDOH data committee meetings so that we are all on the same page.

- Focus on a few specific disparities that all ethnic groups consider to be glaring and identify how those data are collected and how we can improve it.
- Judi agreed to do a lit review of how to collect race and ethnicity data
- Find a way to store data collected from ethnic groups for others to access it (possibly CMH/UDOH)
- Present to the Steering gaps in the data and the kinds of data we want to be able to collect that we are currently not collecting.
- Find out what the Federal Office of Minority Health can do to enforce standardizing data collection (Dulce has a meeting where this will be discussed).

Planning: Isabel

The MHN is planning a Committee Retreat. We have a temporary Planning committee working out the details to ensure that this is an interactive strategic planning event. We hope to bring in some one out side of the state to present as well as local partners.

Steering Suggestions:

- Move the event date from June 27th to August 15th

3. Review and Discuss Committee By Laws

To be discussed at our next meeting

4. Adjourn

Next Meeting: April 24, Utah Department of Health, RM 114, 5:00-7:00pm